

# United States Senate

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## SNOWE, COLLINS, AND CHAFEE ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT ON SPECIAL INTEREST PROVISIONS IN HOMELAND SECURITY BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senators Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), Susan Collins (R-Maine), and Lincoln Chafee (R-R.I.) announced they have reached agreement with Senate leadership on legislation to address their concerns about special interest provisions included in the Homeland Security legislation enacted last year.

Components of the agreement include:

- ✓ *Eliminate* a loophole related to so-called inverted corporations – corporations that moved their headquarters offshore to avoid federal taxes – to clarify that federal contracts will only be awarded to these companies when deemed essential to national security;
- ✓ *Revise* a provision governing college and university research to broaden criteria so all eligible institutions could compete for funding; and
- ✓ *Eliminate* a provision aimed at limiting liability for vaccine manufacturers. The agreement also calls on the Senate to consider and pass comprehensive reforms to the Vaccine Injury Compensation program in the next six months.

The Senators have been spearheading efforts to revise or eliminate the three “egregious” special interest provisions unrelated to Homeland Security but included at the eleventh hour in the Homeland Security bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

In November, they secured the commitment of both the Senate and House Majority Leaders, the Speaker of the House, and the Vice President to address their concerns in the Omnibus Appropriations bill to be considered by Congress later this month.

Since that time, the Senators have been negotiating new legislative language with their colleagues, and the changes will be incorporated into the Omnibus bill by Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). The Senators said they appreciate the efforts of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist to help secure the agreement.

The Senators said they expect the House of Representatives to accept the provisions.

“The eleventh-hour addition of these special-interest provisions in the Homeland Security bill was both egregious and unacceptable. I am very pleased with the agreement we have reached to eliminate the most egregious of these provisions, and make changes that will meet our concerns. Senate Majority Leader Frist and Senator Gregg deserve credit for working with us to reach this agreement,” **said Senator Snowe**. “It was especially important to me to assure families of children with autism full recourse in pursuing their claims. I believe the agreement we reached restores these cases to fair and equal footing without prejudicing the cases,